

CLAIMS:Claim 1

1. A method for the removal of cholesterol, triglycerides and other lipids from animal plasma, serum or other suitable blood fractions, as a discontinuous flow system, said method comprising withdrawing blood from a subject, separating the required fraction from the blood and mixing with a solvent mixture which extracts the said lipids from the fraction, after which the delipidated fraction is recombined with the blood cells and returned to the subject, characterised in that the solvent extraction step is carried out separately and remote from the subject.

2. A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the extraction solvent is substantially removed from the delipidated fraction by washing with a second solvent.

3. A method as defined in Claim 2, wherein the delipidated fraction is washed four times.

4. A method as defined in Claim 2 or ~~Claim 3~~, wherein the second solvent is diethyl ether.

5. A method as defined in Claim 1 to 4, wherein the solvent extraction step comprises:

- (a) mixing the solvent mixture containing the fraction with beads, said beads being of a density substantially mid-way between the density of the fraction and the density of the solvent mixture; and

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(b) isolating the thus delipidated fraction-containing phase.

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A method as defined in Claim ¹⁹8, wherein the beads contain entrapped air to obtain the density substantially midway between the density of the fraction and the density of the solvent mixture.

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A method as defined in Claim ²⁰8, wherein the density of the beads is about 0.9 g/ml.

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A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the extraction solvent is removed from the delipidated fraction by mixing the delipidated fraction with an absorbent specific for the extraction solvent.

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A method as defined in Claim ¹8, wherein the absorbent is contained in the pores of sintered spheres.

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A method as defined in Claim ⁵8, wherein the sintered spheres are about 2mm to 5mm in diameter and the pores of the spheres are less than ⁵⁰A in diameter.

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A method as defined in ^{Claim 8}any one of Claims 8 to 10, wherein the absorbent is a macroporous polymeric bead for absorbing organic molecules from an aqueous solution.

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A method as defined in ^{Claim 8}any one of Claims 8 to 11, wherein the absorbent is held in a chamber which is adapted to allow the delipidated fraction to pass through or over the absorbent at least twice.

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13. A porous sintered sphere for use in a method as defined in ~~any one of Claims 8 to 12~~, said sphere containing an absorbent in its pores.

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14. A sintered sphere as defined in Claim 9, wherein the absorbent is a macroporous polymeric bead for absorbing organic molecules from an aqueous solution.

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15. A method of changing the blood rheology of an animal with impaired blood circulation whereby the plasma, serum or other suitable blood fraction of the animal has been treated by a method as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~.

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16. A method for rapid regression of coronary atherosclerosis in an animal whereby the plasma, serum or other suitable blood fraction from the animal is treated by a method as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~.

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17. A method of removing excessive adipose tissue from an animal whereby the plasma, serum or other suitable blood fraction from the animal is treated by a method as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~.

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18. A method of removing fat soluble toxins from an animal whereby the plasma, serum or other suitable blood fraction from the animal is treated by a method as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~.

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19. A method of changing the blood rheology of an animal whereby the plasma or serum of the animal is exchanged for non-autologous plasma or serum wherein said non-autologous plasma or serum has

been treated by a method as defined in ~~any one~~
~~of claims 1 to 12.~~ *Claim 1* ^{510T}

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A method of rapidly regressing coronary
 atherosclerosis in an animal whereby the plasma
 or serum of the animal is exchanged for non-
 autologous plasma or serum wherein said non-
 autologous plasma or serum has been treated by a
 method as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 12.~~ *Claim 1* ^{510T}

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 21.

A method of removing excessive adipose tissue
 from an animal whereby the plasma or serum of
 the animal is exchanged for non-autologous
 plasma or serum wherein said non-autologous
 plasma or serum has been treated by a method as
 defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 12.~~ *Claim 1* ^{510T}

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 22.

A method of removing fat soluble toxins from an
 animal whereby the plasma or serum of the animal
 is exchanged for non-autologous plasma or serum
 wherein said non-autologous plasma or serum has

been treated by a method as defined in ~~any one~~
~~of claims 1 to 12.~~ *Claim 1*

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